

Society Reports.

NEW YORK NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

*Stated Meeting, held at the New York Academy of Medicine,
Tuesday evening, May 7th, 1893.*

Dr. M. ALLEN STARR, President, in the Chair.

ATAXIC PARAPLEGIA.

Dr. L. STIEGLITZ presented a patient, a man aged 40 years, who has been under observation for a year. He first complained of weakness and paresthesia in the lower limbs. The knee-jerks were greatly increased; there was pronounced ankle clonus; slight ataxia; slight Ramberg symptom; some paralysis on the right side of the face. His condition remained about the same for a few months. Last December the ataxia of the lower limbs became more pronounced, and the upper limbs were also affected; the sensory disturbances were increased. All these symptoms have steadily progressed. There is also slight disturbance of the functions of the bladder. The thermal sense to heat has been lost. Dr. Stieglitz presented the case as one of combined systemic sclerosis of the lateral and posterior tracts (ataxic paraplegia), with involvement of the right facial nerve.

EXHIBITION OF A NEW INDUCTION COIL FOR CURRENTS OF QUANTITY AND TENSION.

By Dr. A. D. ROCKWELL. The apparatus shown consisted of a stationary helix, having the primary coil movable, so that the current can be increased from zero by imperceptible gradations. The coil consists of about 7,500 feet of wire, varying in thickness and length, and from it a current of any quantity and tension can be obtained. It can be run by any form of coil. To run it satisfactorily, it requires from five to ten cells. By the use of this induction coil, instead of having three

or four cumbersome helices, only one is required, and the current can be increased from zero to the desired point.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING GENITO-URINARY NEUROLOGY.

Dr. THOMAS H. BURCHARD read a paper on this subject. He stated that the intimate connection, anatomical and physiological, that exists between the general nervous system on the one hand, and the genito-urinary system on the other, finds a counterpart in the reciprocal manifestations of these symptoms under conditions of disease. Diseases of the brain, spinal cord and sympathetic systems, produce corresponding disturbances in the genito-urinary system, and conversely, diseased conditions of the uterus, ovaries, bladder, prostate and external genitals, are not infrequently the cause of serious nervous disease. The extent to which the brain is susceptible to general irritation is, of course, largely a matter of conjecture. That inordinate sexual indulgence, particularly during the period of adolescence, may seriously weaken the system by sapping its vitality, all will doubtless admit. Even here, however, and especially among the insane, the sexual manifestations, which are essentially symptomatic, must not be regarded as causative. The important point is that long continued irritation of the genito-urinary system, and entirely independent of all sexual indulgence, is capable of producing, *sui generis*, insidious and profound nervous disease.

Dr. BURCHARD then gave the history of three cases, in which there was a direct relationship between the genital irritation and the nervous phenomena, the latter disappearing entirely upon the removal of the irritation. The first case was one of epilepsy. The patient was a boy, aged 12 years. He had been delicate from birth. At the age of eight years he began to complain of painful micturition, which increased to such severity that he would hold his water for hours, passing it involuntarily during sleep, when he frequently would awake screaming with pain. At this time he had frequent hysterical attacks of crying, during which the muscles of his face first, and then those of the body would undergo contraction and irregular spasm. He did not lose consciousness. When the boy was ten years old, he had distinct epilepti-